



Message from Bishop Martin Hayes

It is my privilege to preface the 2022 Safeguarding Newsletter and to highlight the importance of ensuring the safety of all who participate in the life of our parish faith communities. After a difficult two-year period of restrictions due to the pandemic, we have begun to resume parish activities involving children and young people.

It is imperative that we facilitate the optimum participation of our children and young people in the life of each of our parish faith communities. It is only with such involvement that we will nurture the faith of future generations.

We know that the work of safeguarding in the Church is never finished. It is absolutely essential that we ensure that the policies and procedures of safeguarding are implemented fully throughout the diocese of Kilmore.

We are all called to ensure a safe environment for our children and young people. I would like to thank all the volunteers throughout the diocese who work in the area of safeguarding to ensure adherence to the Safeguarding standards of the Church. They include clergy, parish safeguarding representatives, parish leaders and volunteers, parish recruitment committees, chairs of parish pastoral councils, pastoral assistants, permanent deacons, diocesan advisers, Lourdes pilgrimage leaders, support persons, trainers, the diocesan committee for safeguarding, the advisory panel for case management, designated liaison persons and the diocesan director of safeguarding.

We have all the policies and procedures in place and we give thanks for all the personnel who ensure the safety of our children and young people.

With good wishes and prayers.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Hayes".

+ Martin Hayes,
Bishop of Kilmore.

Safeguarding Training Delivered

Fifteen full day training sessions took place between September 2021 and June 2022. Further training days are scheduled to take place before the end of this year. Those required to attend have been contacted. In September 2018 parish safeguarding visits commenced. They were interrupted due to Covid during 2020 and 2021 but by November of 2021 all thirty-four parishes received a visit. This year the parish visits are being replaced by four information / update sessions which will take place during September and October 2022.



Annual Safeguarding Sunday



Our sixth annual Safeguarding Sunday will be held throughout the diocese on the weekend of the 24th & 25th of September 2022. The purpose of Safeguarding Sunday is to create a greater awareness of safeguarding in our parishes and to recognise the significant contribution of the faithful in ensuring that our diocesan safeguarding children policy and our diocesan adult safeguarding policy are being adhered to. Special prayers of the faithful and homily notes have been prepared and distributed to all the clergy for inclusion in the weekend liturgies.

Guidance on the Use of Photography

The Church only has responsibility for safeguarding in relation to the use of photography if it plans to use the photographs for Church purposes. Photographs taken at events organised by family and schools such as First Communion, weddings or Confirmations (including when the photographer is employed by the school or family for these occasions) do not fall under the responsibility of the Church, unless they are being taken for Church purposes. If parents/guardians and parishioners are intending to photograph or video at an organised event, guidance is available on the diocesan website - www.kilmorediocese.ie



Parish Audits 2022

In 2021, the National Board for Safeguarding Children advised dioceses that parish audits had resumed. We appreciate that there has been very little engagement with children/young people due to Covid but we would encourage you to use the parish audit as a reminder of what needs to be in place as normal activity resumes. The return date for this year's audit is 17th October 2022.



A sincere thank you to all our clergy, staff & volunteers for their commitment to keeping children safe in our diocese.

Go raibh mile maith agaibh go léir.

Dziękuję wam wszystkim.

Risk Assessment

The National Board for Safeguarding Children has indicated that Tusla is currently reviewing Child Safeguarding Statements with reference to how local risk assessments are conducted. This is in the context of the child safeguarding policy which requires that a written risk assessment is carried out on all ministries with children. Each ministry must be reviewed at parish level, by those involved and safeguards put in place to minimise risk. In relation to children's ministries at local level the focus should be on risk assessment in relation to safeguarding issues.

A risk assessment is an exercise where an organisation examines all aspects of its service from a safeguarding perspective, to establish whether there are any practices of the service that have the potential to put children at risk. The Church is one such organisation. Risk assessments should be reviewed periodically as the operating environment changes or when new information on risks becomes available. Risk assessments are carried out at parish level for every activity involving children.



Towards Healing



Towards Healing is an independent organisation providing free professional support for people who have experienced institutional, clerical or religious abuse in Ireland. It provides face to face counselling, structured phone counselling, family counselling and a counselling helpline.

Tuesday to Friday: 9.00am - 5.00pm.

Freephone: 1800 303416

Hearing Impaired Text Line: 085 8022859

Email: info@towardshealing.ie

Website: www.towardshealing.ie

Towards Peace



Towards Peace provides spiritual support in a safe supportive space, where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time.

Monday and Tuesday: 9.00am – 4.00pm

Wednesday: 9.00am -12.00 noon

Phone: 01 5053028 / 086 7710533

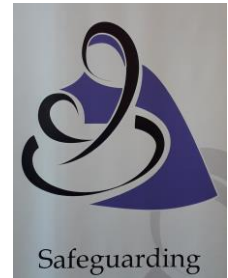
Out of Office Hours: 086 7710533

Email: towardspeace@iecon.ie

Website: www.towardspeace.ie

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

In each parish one or two safeguarding representatives work alongside the parish priest, leaders and volunteers to raise awareness of safeguarding best practice, offering help and practical support where necessary. Voluntary safeguarding representatives have participated in a training programme developed specifically for the role by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church and delivered by diocesan trainers. Safeguarding representatives agree to hold the role for four years. Their role is not to hear concerns, allegations or disclosures of abuse but rather to ensure that people have access to the contact details for Tusla, the Gardaí and the designated liaison persons. These contact details are displayed at the main entrance of every church in the diocese.



Parish Safeguarding Representatives are responsible for promoting safeguarding by:

1. Raising awareness of safeguarding by holding an information session at least once a year which anyone from the parish can attend but must be attended by leaders and volunteers of children's activities.
2. Disseminating information on safeguarding standards and circulating that information widely.
3. Ensuring Church activities are provided in a way that ensures the safety and well being of the children involved.
4. Ensuring that the contact details of the designated liaison persons, the Gardaí and Tusla are widely publicised.

Parish Leaders and Volunteers:

- a) A leader is the person with overall responsibility for the activity.
This person is responsible for supervising the children.
- b) A volunteer is someone who assists the leader in facilitating the activity.
This person is responsible for helping the leader supervise the children.
- c) A volunteer with a non-supervisory role is someone who assists the leader in facilitating the activity but does not supervise the children.



Feedback

Feedback on our present safeguarding arrangements is always welcome and you are encouraged to do so. Each parish holds an annual safeguarding information session at which feedback on our safeguarding practices is sought from those who attend. Please give your feedback, thoughts and suggestions during these information sessions. The parish safeguarding representative will forward them to the diocesan safeguarding office. You can also give your feedback directly to the diocesan safeguarding office by contacting Suzie Duffy at safeguarding@kilmorediocese.ie



If you have a safeguarding concern or wish to raise a matter from the past, you may contact any of the following. A concern can also be about someone who has been abused and their abuser is now deceased.

Kilmore Diocese:

Suzie Duffy,

Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Cullies, Cavan, Co. Cavan.

049 4375004, ext 105

Email: safeguarding@kilmorediocese.ie Website: www.kilmorediocese.ie

Paul Cullen,

Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Cullies, Cavan, Co. Cavan.

049 4375004, ext 109

Email: safeguardingdlp@kilmorediocese.ie Website: www.kilmorediocese.ie 085 2578490

An Garda Síochána:

Superintendent Barry Walsh,

Garda National Protective Services Bureau, Harcourt Square, Dublin 2. DO2 DH42

Email: GNPSB_SCMU@garda.ie 01 6663430

PSNI:

20 Queen Street, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. BT74 7JR

101 (non-emergency)

Online reporting: www.psni.police.uk/advice_information/child-protection/

999 (emergency)

Tusla:

Child and Family Agency, Hampton Court, Cootehill Road, Cavan, Co. Cavan.

049 4369800

Health Care Unit, Rooskey, Co. Monaghan.

047 30400

HSC:

Gateway Team, Derry:

028 71314090 (from NI), 048 71314090 (from ROI)

(Mon - Thurs: 9.00am - 5.00pm, Fri: 9.00am - 4.30pm)

NBSCCCI:

National Office for Safeguarding Children,

New House, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

Email: admin@safeguarding.ie



A Safeguarding Prayer

Loving Father God,

We come to you in the knowledge that you hold all your children in unconditional love.

We lift to you those who are vulnerable and in need of protection, give them your safety, comfort and peace.

We cry to you for those who are hurting and whose trust has been broken, give them your healing, restoration and justice.

We bring to you those who seek to forgive others who have hurt them, give them your strength, courage and hope.

For those who have caused your children to stumble, lead them to seek your forgiveness and to enter into true repentance.

Thank you for all who give their time, knowledge, and skills to make our communities safer, give them your wisdom, guidance and grace.

For ourselves, we ask you to give us your heart for the vulnerable, the oppressed, the voiceless and the forgotten. Help us to see them as you see them; to value them as you value them, and to nurture and protect them as you desire.

Help each one of us play our part in creating safer places for all your people.

Amen.

